

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office Action dated May 29, 2008, dependent Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as being indefinite for depending from a cancelled claim, and independent Claim 1 and dependent Claims 2, 5, and 7-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable in light of U.S. Patent No. 4,090,279 to Wasko in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,922,761 to Schwendt. The Examiner kindly suggested that dependent Claims 3 and 4 would be allowable if rewritten into independent form. In response to the Office Action, Applicants have canceled dependent Claim 4 and amended independent Claim 1 and dependent Claim 7. Following this response, independent Claim 1 and dependent Claims 2, 5, and 7-11 remain pending in the application.

A. Rejection of Dependent Claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §112

Applicants have amended dependent Claim 7 so as to depend from independent Claim 1, as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of dependent Claim 7 under §112 be withdrawn.

B. Rejection of Independent Claim 1 and Dependent Claims 2, 5, and 7-11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Applicants have amended independent Claim 1 to include the feature recited by dependent Claim 4, which the Examiner indicated was directed to allowable subject matter. Accordingly Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of independent Claim 1 under §103(a).

Dependent Claims 2, 5, and 7-11 depend from independent Claim 1 and therefore include all the limitations of independent Claim 1 plus additional features that further define over the prior art. Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above in regard to independent Claim 1, Applicants respectfully assert that dependent Claims 2, 5, and 7-11 are also patentable over the prior art.

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Amdt. dated August 27, 2008
Reply to Office Action of May 29, 2008

C. Conclusion

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's careful consideration of this application and would welcome a telephone conference with the Examiner to expedite the processing of the patent application. Applicant's attorney, Meredith Struby, may be reached directly at (404) 881-4626.

Respectfully submitted,

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